

I strongly support the petition submitted by FISTS CW Club, RM-10811. Elimination of the Element 1 requirement for Technition-plus operating privileges will remove a significant barrier to entry in the amateur service. By retaining the existing novice sub-bands and by not extending the phone allocation, a strong incentive to upgrade will still be present. The addition of digital mode access within the novice sub-bands is highly desirable given their simplicity, substantial popularity, and general attraction among a more computer-oriented population.

Increasing the technical content required for Elements 2-4 will strongly benefit the amateur service. Even with an increase in technical rigor, the technical content is not the limiting factor for most pursuing an amateur license: The "specter" of Element 1 is. By raising the technical bar, we are more likely to have a larger number of more technically capable amateurs.